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10 May 1983
ICS-83-3149

11 MAY 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Intelligence Community Staff
                  Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM: 25X1

                  Chairman, FIPC

SUBJECT: 11 May 1983 SIG(I) Committee Meeting

REFERENCE: Memo from DDCI, dated 6 May 1983; same subject

        1. In the referenced memorandum, the DDCI asks for your views on
subjects addressed in the attached report for the SIG(I) Committee. The
comments below are provided to assist your consideration of these subjects.
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The Community's Responsiveness to the NITs

        2. There are at least three approaches that could be used to assess the
Community's responsiveness to the NITs. The first is to do what the IPC has
done this time. That is, to report on the quantity of production by topic and
geographic area. This tells much about the focus of production but does not
inform very well about whether or to what extent a particular NIT has been
answered.   25X1

        3. The second approach is for the NITs staff to prepare a word
description of the Community's response to each NIT. This is a demanding task
that takes considerable time of production and staff elements. My impression
is that the impact of past post mortems of this sort has not justified the
effort to do them.   25X1

        4. The third approach is to rely on the intelligence consumers to state
their views about the Community's responsiveness at periodic SIG(I) meetings
and to guide the production of the Community by restating the NITs at regular
intervals. This approach recognizes that the consumers of intelligence are
more interested in results than in a score card.   25X1

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5. On balance, the third approach might be best because it would gradually force the intelligence consumers to take a more active role in the NITs process. In the final analysis, they should be doing the evaluating. 25X1

Remaining Information Gaps

6. In this section of its report, the IPC has prepared a summary of what could not be answered--the other half of the Intelligence Community's response to the NITs. It is a very authoritative, relatively succinct statement of the most important information gaps. If it were kept current, it would be a useful way for intelligence managers to keep abreast of continuing collection problem areas and collection progress. 25X1

Recent DCID 1/2 Priority Changes

7. .This is a summary of priorities information already disseminated to the Community. If the DCID 1/2 Committee is to contribute this information in this way at regular intervals, it will focus new, high-level attention on the timeliness and completeness of our priority change actions. It will be a challenge for the DCID 1/2 Committee because we are not particularly well organized to maintain the DCID 1/2 priorities in a thorough and timely fashion. 25X1

Purpose and Utility of the NITs

8. There is considerable confusion amongst both consumers and producers of intelligence about the purpose and relationship of the NITs and DCID 1/2 priorities mainly, I believe, because their definitions and relationship have never been set down in writing in a complete and authoritative way in one document. If it were made clear, in a two or three page exposition, that a NIT is a specific requirement levied by one or more intelligence consumers for the production of highly important information that is needed in the near future, and that the DCID 1/2 requirements categories and priorities, conceptually, are not requirements as such, but rather a comprehensive list of prioritized intelligence subjects for the management guidance of any intelligence activity requiring a substantive reference point, then all of the questions mentioned in the "Problem Areas" section of Tab E, except those dealing with the frequency and timing of the NITs preparation cycle, would be answered. Or, at least, it would be a good beginning. 25X1

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9. The DCID 1/2 Committee has always considered the establishment of a NIT of Current Interest as clear evidence of a new level of intelligence consumer interest in a subject and, more important, as possible evidence of an increase in the importance of that subject to U.S. interests. For this reason, in our guidance to the Community, we list the establishment of a NIT of Current Interest as one of the factors that it might be appropriate to reference when preparing the justification for a request to increase a DCID 1/2 priority. ⬚   25X1

Proposed Adjustments to the NITs Process

10. The IPC has proposed a very minimal NITs production and review schedule in line with what seems to be manageable by the Community at this time. There would be two SIG(I) Committee meetings a year. At one, new NITs would be approved and at both meetings there would be a review of Community responsiveness. There would be two categories of Current NITs, Category A with a six month due date and Category B with a 12 month deadline. One flaw in this schedule I see is that it would only be possible to submit a new six month NIT once a year, in July. All in all it is a rather pro forma schedule of procedures. ⬚   25X1

11. If the intelligence consumers want to make the NITs system work for them, and they should take the lead here, they should request that procedures be available to update and reissue the NITs at least twice a year. This is the minimum for a current intelligence requirements system. ⬚   25X1

12. A twice-a-year review of the DCID 1/2 priorities process by the SIG(I) would be an appropriate and convenient arrangement from the standpoint of the DCID 1/2 Committee. ⬚   25X1

Attachment:
 a/s

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REPORT FOR THE SIG(I) COMMITTEE

ON

NIT-RELATED PRODUCTION

AND ON

INTELLIGENCE PRIORITIES

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